

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 DRC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4084

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: TNC: WORKING GROUP 3(E) ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

1. GATT SECRETARIAT HAS DISTRIBUTED FOLLOWING NOTES ON TNC
AGRICULTURAL GROUP:

A. "GROUP 3(E) -- CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL WORK TO BE
UNDERTAKEN", MTN/3E/1;

B. "GROUP 3(E) -- CHECK LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTATION",
MTN/3E/W/1;

C. "GROUP 3(3) -- SANITARY AND PHYTO SANITARY REGULATIONS",
MTN/3E/2.

2. COPIES OF NOTES HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT (WILLIAMS,
EB/GCP), STR (KELLY), AGRICULTURE (WHITE) AND USEC (KOENIG).

3. MTN/3E/1 PROPOSES FOLLOWING WORK PROGRAM FOR GROUP 3(E)
(PARAGRAPH NUMBERS KEYED TO TASKS FOR TNC AS SET FORTH IN TNC
PROGRAM OF WORK, MTN/2):

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A. TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY GROUP 3(E) ALONE:

PARAGRAPH 3:

"(A) WHICH OF THE DOCUMENTS IN CHECK LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CAN AND MUST BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE, WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS THAT ESTABLISHED THEM;

(B) WHAT COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IT SEEMS NECESSARY TO ASSEMBLE."

PARAGRAPH 4:

"(A) DETERMINE WHICH PRODUCTS OR PRODUCT SECTORS SHOULD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BE THE SUBJECT OF THE STATISTICAL AND ANALYTICAL EXERCISE MENTIONED IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 4;

(B) INDICATE SPECIFICALLY WHAT DATA SHOULD BE COLLECTED, AND FOR WHICH YEARS.

IT WOULD LIKEWISE BE USEFUL FOR THE GROUP TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION AT ITS FIRST MEETING WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM RECENT CHANGES FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, AND HOW THAT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE APPROACH TO THE AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS."

PARAGRAPH 15:

SEE BELOW UNDER MTN/3E/2.

B. TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY GROUP 3(E) IN LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS:

PARAGRAPHS 5, 6, 7:

"ONE MAY QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY FOR THE GROUP OF GOING INTO A DISCUSSION ON THE TARIFFS, BASE YEAR OR UNIT OF ACCOUNT TO BE USED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONCURRENT - IF NOT SIMULTANEOUS - DISCUSSION OF THE SAME TOPICS IN GROUP 3(A). IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE PARTICIPATION AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS IN THE TWO GROUPS WILL BE BROADLY SIMILAR, ONE MIGHT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING THE POINTS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS 5, 6 AND 7 OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS 3(A) AND 3(E) IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH OTHER.

IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST FOR GROUP 3(E) TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT."

PARAGRAPHS 11 THROUGH 14:

"IT WOULD SEEM PREMATURE FOR GROUP 3(E) TO DISCUSS AT ITS FIRST SESSION THE PROBLEM OF THE APPLICABILITY TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF RULES ON PACKAGING, LABELLING, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND IMPORT DOCUMENTATION. THE PROBLEM OF STANDARDS IS A DIFFERENT CASE, FIRST BECAUSE IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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DETAILED, BUT ALSO BECAUSE SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS ASSUREDLY FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF STANDARDS GIVEN IN DOCUMENT COM.IND/W/108. ACCORDINGLY, ONE CAN SAY THAT IN RESUMING THE WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN ON SANITARY REGULATIONS, THE GROUP IS AT THE SAME TIME DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IN PART IF NOT IN ITS TOTALITY, OF SOLUTIONS ELABORATED IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDS."

4. MTN/3E/W/1 CLASSIFIES AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS GIVEN IN LIST CIRCULATED IN DOCUMENT MTN/2 -- ANNEX ACCORDING TO MATERIAL COVERED, E.G. "A. IMPORT MEASURES -- 3. QUANTATIVE RESTRICTIONS -- D. STATE TRADING -- AUSTRALIA" OR "B. EXPORT MEASURES -- 4. SUBSIDIES -- EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES".

5. MTN/3E/W/2 RECALLS THAT PARAGRAPH 15 OF MTN/2 CALLS FOR "CONTINUATION OF STUDIES ALREADY BEGUN ON SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY REGULATIONS" AND REVIEWS PAST WORK OF GATT AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE UNDER THE 1967 PROGRAM OF WORK WHICH WAS UNDERTAKEN IN TWO PHASES: "ASSEMBLY AND ANALYSIS OF BASIC DATA ON INCIDENCE OF HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS ON TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AND EXAMINATION OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO NEGOTIATIONS." DOCUMENT PROPOSES FOLLOWING WORK PROGRAM FROM GROUP 3(E) UNDER TASK GIVEN IN PARAGRAPH 15:

"1. BASIC DATA:

WHETHER THE EXISTING INVENTORY OF NOTIFICATIONS COULD USEFULLY BE UPDATED AND IF SO WHETHER DOCUMENT COM.AG/W/68/ADD.4 SHOULD BE REVISED IN ITS PRESENT OR SOME OTHER FORMAT.

2. POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO FURTHER WORK ON SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY REGULATIONS:

WHETHER FURTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE APPROACHES MIGHT USEFULLY BE UNDERTAKEN WITH A VIEW TO SELECTING A LIMITED NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUES. THESE COULD INCLUDE:

(I) DRAWING UP CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING AND GIVING GREATER PRECISION TO ARTICLE XX(B); IN THIS CONNEXION THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION OF, AND CONSULTATION ON, MEASURES MAIN-
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TAINED UNDER THAT ARTICLE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED;

(II) DRAWING UP A DRAFT CODE INCLUDING GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF ADVERSE TRADE EFFECTS OF SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY REGULATIONS;

(III) EXAMINATION OF THE PRACTICAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OF ARBITRAL PROCEDURES IN THE CONTEXT OF ONE OR OTHER OF THE APPROACHES TO THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF ADVERSE TRADE EFFECTS;

(IV) EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICABILITY IN THE FIELD OF SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY REGULATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT CODE ON STANDARDS (COM.IND/W/108).

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:

AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF TH

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